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LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of the note verbale dated 28 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran, concerning a gross violation of the terms of ceasefire between the two countries.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehdi DANESH-YAZDI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Note verbale dated 28 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state the following.

Relevant Iranian border authorities have reported that on 17 February 1998 at 1800 hours, an armed group of the terroristic so-called "People's Mujahideen Organization" crossed the border in the vicinity of the Shourshirin sentry post in the Ilam area and infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They captured three personnel of this sentry post in an ambush and took them into the Iraqi territory. The names of the captured personnel are as follows:

1. Sergeant Mohsen Kohvand;

2. Conscript Hossein Shojaei;

3. Conscript Raza Izanlu.

The Islamic Republic of Iran hereby registers its strong objection to such acts, considers the Government of Iraq, which permits the presence of this terrorist organization in its territory and provides favourable conditions for this organization to organize terroristic and armed activities and sabotage against Iran, responsible for all aggressive acts by this organization, and demands the immediate release of the above-mentioned personnel.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Government of Iraq to observe the rules and principles of international law and thereby give effect to its stated belief in good neighbourly relations and decreasing tension in the bilateral relations.